

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST CONTINUATION SHEET
U.S. 301 SOUTH CORRIDOR TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Property Name: Belt Tenant House
Survey No.: P.G.:74A-19 (PACS A223)

Property Address 14804 Oak Grove Road, Bowie vicinity, Prince George's County
Owner Name/Address _____
Year Built circa 1890

Description:

The Belt Tenant House was previously surveyed by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 1974 and the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission in 1985. The property was inaccessible during this study and attempts to contact the property owner were not successful.

National Register Evaluation:

According to prior survey information, this property appears to be potentially significant. However, since the building was not accessible, it is not possible to assess condition or integrity and therefore its significance can not be determined at this time.

MHT CONCURRENCE:

Eligibility _____ recommended _____ not recommended

Criteria _____ A _____ B _____ C _____ D _____ Considerations _____ A _____ B _____ C _____ D _____ E _____ F _____ G _____ None

Comments: _____

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

Reviewer, NR program

Date

Preparer:

P.A.C. Spero & Company

September 1996

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PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #74A-19 Building Date: ca. 1890

Building Name: Belt Tenant House

Location: 14804 Oak Grove Road, Mitchellville, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Fair/Inaccessible

Description

The Belt tenant house is a two-story gable-roofed frame house which stands on the north side of the old road from Leeland to Queen Anne. It is a simple I-house plan, three-bays by one-bay, with central stairhall and a parlor on each side. Entrance is in the central bay of the three bay south facade; the door has a single-pane transom. There is a central cross-gable at second level, with a 6/6 pointed-arch window. There is a jigsawn scallop decoration on the bargeboards at the cross gable and all around the eaves. The south facade is sheltered by a one-story shed roof porch now screened in. The windows are 6/6 double-sash on the first story, and 3/6 on the second, and have plain board surrounds. There is an interior corbelled brick chimney at the ridge. The house is covered with plain board siding on south and east (German siding on north and west) painted white. The trim is painted brown, the roof is of corrugated tin painted red, and the house rests on brick piers infilled with concrete block. At right angles to the main block is a small, one-story gable-roofed (north) kitchen wing, and adjoining this wing on the east is a new one-story concrete block addition. Across the road to the southwest is another small frame gable-roofed tenant house with similar I-house plan, but no central cross gable.

Significance

The Belt Tenant House represents the late nineteenth century settlement at Leeland, part of the extensive landholdings of the Lee and Belt families in central Prince George's County. In the 1870's, after the construction of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad, a small community began to develop around the station nearest to St. Barnabas' Church. As first known as Brick Church Station, the area came to be known as Leeland, after Dr. Benjamin Lee who had owned much of the farmland there. Lee's grandson, Benjamin Lee Belt, was active in the development of the community around Leeland Station; by the 1890's the community included the station, a blacksmith shop, post office and store, as well as several tenant houses, all owned by Benjamin Lee Belt and his mother, Eleanor Lee Belt. The subject house adjoined the blacksmith's shop, and probably was the dwelling of the blacksmith himself. It was typical of late nineteenth century tenant houses, a simple frame I-house. After the death of Benjamin Lee Belt in 1935, his property passed to his brother, W. Seton Belt, who in 1960 devised the land to the Episcopal Church, to be managed by the Mercantile-Safe Deposit and Trust Company of Baltimore. The store, post office and station have been gone for many years, the second tenant house is empty and deteriorating, and only the blacksmith's dwelling has been maintained; it stands today in fairly good condition, as a rental dwelling, the last surviving vestige of the Leeland community.

Acreage: 650.3 acres

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Belt Tenant House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 14804 Oak Grove Road ☐ not for publicationcity, town Mitchellville ☐ Leeland vicinity of ☐ congressional district

state Md. county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Estate of Seton Belt c/o Mercantile-Safe Deposit and Trust Company

street & number 2 Hopkins Plaza telephone no.: 347-8040

city, town Baltimore state and zip code Md. 21201

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber WDA #5

street & number Main Street folio 99

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 ☐ federal ☐ state ☒ county ☐ local

depository for survey records History Division MNCPPC

city, town Riverdale state Md.

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #74A-19

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Belt tenant house is a two-story gable-roofed frame house which stands on the north side of the old road from Leeland to Queen Anne. It is a simple I-house plan, three-bays by one-bay, with central stairhall and a parlor on each side. Entrance is in the central bay of the three bay (main) south facade; the door has a single-pane transom. There is a central cross-gable at second level above the door, filled with a 6/6 pointed-arch window. There is a jigsawn scallop decoration on the bargeboards at the cross gable and all around the eaves. The south facade is sheltered by a one-story shed roof porch now screened in. The windows are 6/6 double-sash on the first story, and 3/6 on the second, and have plain board surrounds.

There is an interior corbelled brick chimney at the ridge. The house is covered with plain board siding on south and east (German siding on north and west) painted white. The trim is painted brown, and there are two-board trellis-type shutters at the windows. The roof is of corrugated tin painted red, and the house rests on brick piers now filled in with concrete block.

At right angles to the main block is a small, one-story gable-roofed (north) kitchen wing, and adjoining this wing on the east is a new one-story concrete block addition. North of the house is a small gable-roofed shed with corrugated tin roof and vertical board siding.

Across the road to the southwest is another small frame gable-roofed tenant house with similar I-house plan, but no central cross gable. This house is empty and in deteriorating condition. Entrance is in the central (but off center) bay of the three-bay east (main) facade. This house has plain board siding painted white, and two-board trellis-type shutters painted red. A brick chimney is centered at the ridge of the red standing-seam tin roof. Bargeboards at the eaves have jigsawn scallop decoration, and jigsawn pendants at the gable ends. The building rests on a brick foundation.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G. #74A-19

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				local history

Specific dates ca. 1890 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Belt Tenant House is one of only two buildings surviving from the late nineteenth century settlement at Leeland. This was part of the extensive nineteenth century landholdings of the Lee and Belt families in central Prince George's County. In the 1870's, after the construction of the Pope's Creek line of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad through the County, a small community began to develop around the station nearest to St. Barnabas' Church. As first known as Brick Church Station (after the common local name for St. Barnabas') the area came to be known as Leeland, after Dr. Benjamin Lee, who had owned much of the farmland there. Lee's grandson, Benjamin Lee Belt, was active in the development of the community around Leeland Station; by the 1890's the community included (besides the station) a blacksmith shop, post office and store, as well as several tenant houses, all owned by Benjamin Lee Belt and his mother, Eleanor Lee Belt.¹ (After his marriage in 1882 to Amelia Bowie, daughter of Richard W.W. Bowie, Belt made his home at his wife's family home, Locust Grove at Collington).

The subject house adjoined the blacksmith's shop, and probably was the dwelling of the blacksmith himself. It was typical of late nineteenth century tenant houses, a simple frame I-house. A short time after the blacksmith's house was constructed, another similar tenant house was built a short distance to the southwest, across the Brick Church-to- Queen Anne Road. After the death of Benjamin Lee Belt in 1935, his property passed to his brother, W. Seton Belt, who was his sole heir,² and both houses were maintained as tenant dwellings. When Seton Belt died in 1960, he devised the land to the Episcopal Church, to be managed by the Mercantile-Safe Deposit and Trust Company of Baltimore.³ The second house is now empty and in seriously deteriorated condition. The store, post office and station have been gone for many years. Only the blacksmith's dwelling has been maintained (there appears to be no trace of the blacksmith's shop itself); it stands today in fairly good condition, as a rental dwelling. Directly east of the house, the old road to Queen Anne has been closed, so the blacksmith's house is in a fairly remote, untravelled area, quiet and surrounded by woods. It is a good example of a simple vernacular tenant dwelling of the late nineteenth century, and the last surviving vestige of the Leeland community.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. #74A-19

Cf. Notes, Item #8

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 650.3 a.
Quadrangle name Bristol, Md. Sec. A

Tax Map #77 parcel 30

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting NorthingB

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Zone Easting NorthingC

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research Historianorganization Historic Preservation Commission date September 1985street & number c/o Co. Planning, MNCPPC telephone 952-3521city or town Upper Marlboro state Md.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

#8. Continued

Notes

¹ G.M. Hopkins maps of Prince George's County, 1878 and 1894; Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1890's to 1920.

² Estate file, Benjamin Lee Belt, #5710.

³ Prince George's County WDA #5:99.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

1. NAME				
COMMON: Belt Houses at Leeland				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Houses at Brick Church Station				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: Leeland Road and Oak Grove Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro				
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY: Prince George's		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PUBLIC ACQUISITION: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered				
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No				
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment				
<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum				
<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific				
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____				
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____				
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:				
Prince George's County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		
Upper Marlboro		Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
None				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Both houses are small, two story, frame buildings with center chimneys for stove flues. The house on Leeland Road has a three bay main (east) facade with a center doorway. The windows are 6/6 double hung sash on the first floor and 3/3 on the second. There is a one bay porch before the entrance. Bargeboards decorate the eaves. There is no ell.

The house on Oak Grove Road is similar, with a three bay (south) facade with a center doorway with a transom light. The windows are 6/6 double hung sash on the first floor and 3/6 on the second; there is a central gable with a triangular-headed window. The eaves are decorated with bargeboards. To the north is a one story ell with a small interior chimney on the north end wall.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house on Oak Grove Road may have been the house of a blacksmith or part of a blacksmith's shop.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

MNCPPC

DATE

8 Oct 74

STREET AND NUMBER:

8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Silver Spring

STATE

Maryland

12.

State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

ALBERT W. TURNER, ETAL (TR5.)
5619/210
57.50 A.
P. 32

2.75A
P. 58

EARL
LOVELESS, ETAL
5258/843
21 CO A.
P. 2

JEFFREY
ZITZMAN, TR.
4564/735

HERMAN D'AULERIO
4193/546
13.74 A.
P. 6

11.79 A.
P. 3

PG-74A-19 P.30

OAK GROVE RD.

LEELAND

W. SETON BELT
5.00 A.
P. 23

LEELAND
RD.

COLLINGTON



P.G. #74A-19

Belt Tenant House (1)

Prince George's County, MD.

Susan G. Pearl

April 1985

Northwest 3/4 elevation

Neg: Mr. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #74A-19

Belt Tenant House (2)

Prince George's County, MD.

Susan G. Pearl

April 1985

Northeast 3/4 elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #74A-19

Belt Tenant House (1)

Prince George's County, MD.

Susan G. Pearl

April 1985

West elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #74A-19

Belt Tenant House (1)

Prince George's County, MD.

Susan G. Pearl

April 1985

South elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



NAME BELT HOUSE #1

PG. 74A-19

LOCATION NE CORNER OAK GROVE + LEE LAND Rds. LEE LAND, P.G. Co.

FACADE SW Md

PHOTO TAKEN 10/8/74 MDWYER



NAME BELT HOUSE #2 PG: 74A-19

LOCATION SW CORNER OAK GROVE + LEE LAND RDS LEE LAND, P.G. Co. Md

FACADE SE

PHOTO TAKEN 10/8/74 MDWYER



P.G. #74A-19

Belt Tenant House (2)

Prince George's County, MD.

Susan G. Pearl

April 1985

North elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.